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Another Snowden Spy Story, November 11, 2014

By [John Young "Cryptome"](#) (New York, NY) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)

Michael Gurnow inches the Snowden story toward gripping journalistic fiction in concert with previous accounts and away from dull descriptions of specifically how NSA and its ilk accomplish their objectives. It will please readers of spy thrillers and disappoint searchers for clues to the means to stymie the spies. It valorizes spy stories with dramatic struggles and does nothing to hinder the spy industry. This has been the practice of all the Snowden accounts in newspapers, magazines, TV, documentary, film, books and talks.

For this uplifting entertainment without adverse consequence the spy industry is most grateful, and foster the practice by providing a continuous stream of Snowden-like material to media outlets which feature "national security" coverage and legal wrangling as headline leaders. Absent this coverage and wrangling is any useful detailed information, the sacrosanct "means and methods of spies, which could help diminish public deception of what nations are up to under cloak of official and commercial secrecy.

Lack of useful detail is characteristic of all the Snowden accounts, so few of his alleged documents have been released -- somewhere between .015% and 4.3% depending on the DoD or media number used. Without documents narrative fiction prevails in the tradition of the spy trade and ever accommodating national security media embellishment and lawfare simulated opposition.

Snowden is reported to claim means and methods are off-limits due to potential harm to the nation and insists media obey this hoary restriction, and all have. Spies expect this national security obedience and get it by fueling the privileges of press, media, entertainment and law.

This is the long-running story Gurnow retells as if written by spies as Snowden's spy tale.

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The Edward Snowden Affair, August 7, 2014

By [Kathy Fournier](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

Verified Purchase (What's this?)

This review is from: The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Kindle Edition)

This is an excellent book. The author did a great job informing the public. Some of his information I surely did not know anything about.

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Four Stars, August 3, 2014

By [errol pugh](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

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 by Michael Gurnow
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Good overview on what happened.

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out of the heartland land, the facts we need, May 2, 2014

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This review is from: The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)

i could not begin to think of the hours spent in research in this book, Michael has put in words what america needs to know. waiting for his next work i know it will be another good read that i can't put down.

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Snowden; Taitor or Patriot, April 23, 2014

By [Rudie](#) (cape girardeau, mo United States) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)

Snowden; Taitor or Patriot: Gurnow caused me to consider which. He provides the data; you decide. I haven't Every citizen should read this book.

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9 of 10 people found the following review helpful

Knowledge Is Power, April 14, 2014

By [Pierce Yates](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)

I followed this event as it was happening last year, primarily by reading articles posted to Reddit. "The Edward Snowden Affair" was a gift from a friend, and the book took what I thought I knew about this case to a new level. As a student of history and political science, I really appreciate the attention to detail and the nearly overwhelming number of references cited in this work. Like others have said, the author makes a sincere effort to avoid bias, but I get the overwhelming sense that he does not hate Edward Snowden. The book took me for a ride, my ADD kicked in at times, and as soon as I would try to set it down, the plot would thicken again. If you like being informed on information and how it seems to work in the digital age, then check this book out. If you are interested in the controversy of mass intelligence gathering or finding out if we really live in Orwell's 1984 as some claim, check this book out. If you don't believe it is important to find out more about what is going on around you, or feel more free knowing you are being watched, don't check this book out.

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2 of 5 people found the following review helpful

Good Read, April 14, 2014

By [John Vines](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)

This book was very informational and helpful in understanding the NSA scandal. I would suggest this book to anyone who is interested in the subject matter.

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3 of 4 people found the following review helpful

A Political Thriller At Its Best!, April 11, 2014

By [J Gardner](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: **The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)**

Michael Gurnow's The Edward Snowden Affair is a multi-edged sword. It is equal parts political thriller as he leads his audience through the NSA leaker's life and his time leading up to the thief of a purported 1.7 million classified government documents; the six months of clandestine meetings with various members of the press as he plots and manages to get hired onto the last NSA contractor whose files he would need to provide the world with the story of the modern America surveillance state; and the fallout which ensued with the Obama administration, press, foreign nations, and cited multinational corporations implicated in the scandal. In the process, he clearly outlines to the average reader the technological and legal ramifications of the various laws and policies involved in U. S. intelligence practice. With over 50 disclosures presented and discussed, the reader walks away feeling like an authority on Snowden. However, the most rewarding part of the text is Gurnow's Afterword, where he explains the philosophical and ethical implications of the NSA disclosures while saving the best (spoilers withheld), most stunning revelation for last.

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A dandy affair: Snowden versus the world, April 2, 2014

By [timothy a chism](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: **The Edward Snowden Affair: Exposing the Politics and Media Behind the NSA Scandal (Paperback)**

The Edward Snowden Affair was a fantastic read. The author, Michael Gurnow, takes the complex issue of spy versus government in an entertaining and easy to read narrative. There are times, when reading through the book, it feels like a spy novel instead of the real world. The story of Snowden is the classic David versus Goliath and the author does well in portraying the gravity of Snowden's decision to do what he did, the sacrifices it took, and the potential consequences he faced if caught. The author does a good job in keeping an unbiased presentation of the information. Some of the material is difficult to present unbiased, and when those moments arise, he makes mention and states it. The Edward Snowden Affair is a fantastic book.

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